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AUG 18 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Ke Liu et al

Serial No.: 10/731,291

Filed: December 9, 2003

Title: Mini-CPO Providing Hydrogen for  
Hydrogen Desulfurization of  
Hydrocarbon Feeds

Examiner: Patel, Vinit H.

Art Unit: 1764

Docket No.: C-2775AHyS

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile  
transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark  
Office (Fax No. 571-273-8300) on 8/18/06.

Barbara Cecere

Barbara Cecere

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated March 24, 2006. Claims 1-13 are present for consideration.

2. Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected as anticipated by Louder et al (Louder).

In a telephone interview between the Examiner and Supervisor Caldarola held on July 18, 2006, applicants' attorney explained his position that Louder cannot be construed to be capable of both "producing hydrogen-rich reformate from undesulfurized hydrocarbon feed" as called for in line 3 of claim 1, and also capable of "feeding said hydrogen-rich reformate along with the undesulfurized hydrocarbon feed to a hydrogen desulfurizer" as called for in lines 5 and 6 of claim 1. Further, that the Examiner had not previously said how that could be done while alleging that it could be done.

In an Interview Summary of that interview by the Examiner, provided by fax on July 27, 2006, the Examiner contended that hydrogen-rich reformate produced from undesulfurized hydrocarbon feed is present in conduits 12 and 14 having been